

## MEMORANDUM

October 22, 2003

File No. 03-102201

TO: All Interested Parties

FROM: Mary Franks, SEPA Center

SUBJECT: **SEPA LEAD AGENCY & DETERMINATION OF SIGNIFICANCE  
AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS ON SCOPE OF SEIS**

This is to advise you that pursuant to WAC 197-11-900 (922 through 948), the Department of Natural Resources has determined that it is Lead Agency for the following:

Description of proposal: **Areas around Cherry Point are being proposed for designation as an Environmental Aquatic Reserve. The proposal may include approximately 3,400 acres. The type of aquatic reserve being considered is for environmental conservation of an extraordinary stretch of shoreline with excellent potential to maintain the relatively undeveloped character of the area. The herring spawning in the area is recognized as an important biological feature to the Puget Sound ecosystem. The aquatic diversity along this reach is very high with cobble intertidal habitat, large rocks and boulders, and kelp just offshore. Additionally, the deep area close to shore and the steep gradient of the intertidal along this reach could be important to marine diversity. The proposal is located in northwest Whatcom County, Washington.**

Information about this proposal including the Threshold Determination, site boundary options, and Notice of Public Meeting can be viewed on DNR's website at:

**<http://www.dnr.wa.gov/sepa>**

Pursuant to WAC 332-41-504, this proposal was filed in the department's SEPA Center at the Natural Resources Building, 1111 Washington Street SE, P.O. Box 47015, Olympia, Washington, on October 22, 2003. We will consider comments on this proposed Determination of Significance received by 4:30 p.m. on November 12, 2003. **Comments should be submitted to the SEPA Center at, [sepacenter@wadnr.gov](mailto:sepacenter@wadnr.gov) or P.O. Box 47015, Olympia, Washington 98504-7015 for distribution to the responsible official. Please include the file number listed above on all comments.**